

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Process for the preparation of urea granules in a fluid bed granulator comprising:
introducing fluidization air containing very finely atomized water droplets through at least one inlet of the granulator to thereby form a for fluidization air, a distribution plate above which the fluid bed of urea particles above a distribution plate in the granulator; and is present and sprayers that are mounted in the distribution plate,
spraying a from which the urea melt having a concentration of urea therein of higher than 97wt.% from sprayers of the granulator so that the urea melt is sprayed on or over the urea particles present in the fluid bed, wherein the urea which particles are kept in motion by the fluidization air, 7
~~characterized in that the fluidization air contains very finely atomized water and in that the urea concentration of the urea melt is higher than 97 wt. %.~~
2. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the fluidization air contains 0.0001-10 wt. % of water relative to the sprayed amount of urea melt.
3. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, comprising adding ~~characterized in that~~ the water droplets is added to the fluidization air below the distribution plate.
4. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, comprising adding ~~characterized in that~~ the water droplets is added to the fluidization air in one or more supply lines for the fluidization air.

5. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, comprising adding ~~characterized in that the water~~ droplets is added to the fluidization air by atomization from one or more sprayers in the supply line for the fluidization air.
6. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, comprising adding ~~characterized in that the water~~ droplets is added to the fluidization air at ~~[[the]]~~ or just above an elevation of the distribution plate in the granulator ~~or just above the distribution plate.~~
7. (currently amended) Process according to claim 6, comprising adding ~~characterized in that the water~~ droplets is added to the fluidization air at 0-50 cm above the distribution plate.
8. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the maximum ~~droplet~~ size of the atomized water droplets is less than 50 µm.
9. (currently amended) Process according claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the urea concentration of the urea melt is higher than 98 wt. %.
10. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the total amount of urea dust in the fluidization air leaving the granulator is less than 2 wt. % of the amount of the urea melt supplied to the granulator.
11. (currently amended) Granulator for the granulation of urea comprising:
an inlet for introducing fluidization air into the granulator,
a distribution plate, ~~above which the fluid bed is present and~~
sprayers ~~that are~~ mounted in the distribution plate for spraying a ~~from which the~~
urea melt into the granulator so as to form urea particles above the
distribution plate, the urea particles being kept in motion by the fluidization
air introduced through the inlet so as to form a fluid bed of the urea
particles above the distribution plate, and is sprayed, characterized in that
the granulator comprises sprayers

water atomizers mounted below, in or above the distribution plate for atomizing water and introducing atomized water droplets into from which water is atomized in the fluidization air.

12. (currently amended) Granulator according to claim 11, wherein the water atomizers comprise at least one of characterized in that the sprayers for the atomizing of water are two-phase sprayers [[or]] and sonic sprayers.
13. (currently amended) Granulator according to claim 11, comprising one or more supply lines for supplying the fluidization air to the inlet, wherein the water atomizers characterized in that the sprayers are mounted in the one or more supply lines for the fluidization air.
14. (currently amended) Process for revamping a granulator for the granulation of urea comprising an inlet for fluidization air, a distribution plate above which the fluid bed is present and sprayers that are mounted in the distribution plate, from which the urea melt is sprayed, the process comprising mounting water atomizers characterized in that in the granulator sprayers are mounted below, in or above the distribution plate and atomizing water through the atomizers and thereby introduce water droplets into from which water is atomized in the fluidization air.
15. (currently amended) Process according to claim 14, wherein the water atomizers characterized in that the sprayers for atomizing of water are mounted in one or more supply lines for the fluidization air.